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May 1944

PROGRESS REPORT * SECTION 5

705-2

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MEDICAL

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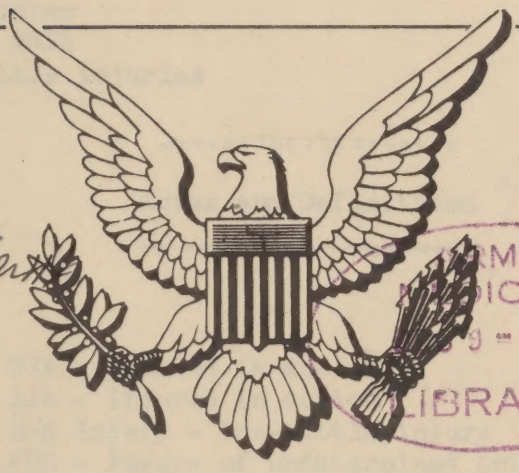

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UNITED STATES ARMY
SERVICES OF SUPPLY
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★

United States Army
Services of Supply
S.W.P.A.

Progress Report - Section 5

"HEALTH"

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Notes and Definitions

Abbreviations:

WIA - Wounded in action
IIA - Injured in action
N-B Injury - Non-battle injury
FUO - Fevers of undetermined origin

Annual Rates per Thousand: Rates in the form of "annual rates per thousand men" are conventionally used in medical statistics and reporting. They serve the purpose of basing observations on a common time-period. Most annual rates in this report are based on observation of a month-long period; such rates can be converted to rough percentages for the month by dividing them by 120.

Crude Death Rates apply to all deaths from all causes among the entire army in the theatre, as distinct from death rates made specific for cause, age, risk, and so on.

HEALTH OF U. S. ARMY TROOPS IN SWPA
May, 1944

1. NONEFFECTIVENESS

The mean daily noneffective rate for the SWPA has not shown a significant variation for the past six months, having remained approximately 4% during the entire period. Although the rate dropped to 3.6% in April it rose again to 4% in May. Non-battle injuries continue to be the most important cause of noneffectiveness with a rate almost three times that of neuropsychiatric diseases, the next most common cause. Although malaria dropped to fourth place with a decrease from 2 to 1.7 per 1000, the importance of this is probably nullified by the fact that it was supplanted by undiagnosed fevers which rose from 1.9 to 2.0. Venereal diseases declined to tenth place as a cause of noneffectiveness with a mean rate of 0.3. For all practical purposes, venereal diseases are not an important cause of noneffectiveness in this theater and may be expected to decline even further as the treatment of gonorrhea with penicillin reduces the hospitalization period for this disease.

2. ADMISSIONS TO SICK REPORT

Admissions to sick report decreased, continuing the slow but gradual decline which has been noted since January. The admission rate in Base I showed a marked increase during April and May due to an outbreak of diarrheal diseases coincident with the moving of the Base Headquarters to a new area. Late reports indicate the incidence is rapidly declining. Admissions to sick report for common respiratory diseases may be expected to increase during the winter months.

3. DEATHS

Despite an increase in the strength of the theater, total deaths for the month decreased from 557 to 331; this decrease is a reflection of the decline in the number of those killed in action and dying of battle wounds from 397 to 196. The deaths from air transportation showed a gratifying decrease while those from drowning showed a moderate increase. The death rate was 9.2 in April as contrasted with 18.1 in March.

4. EVACUATIONS

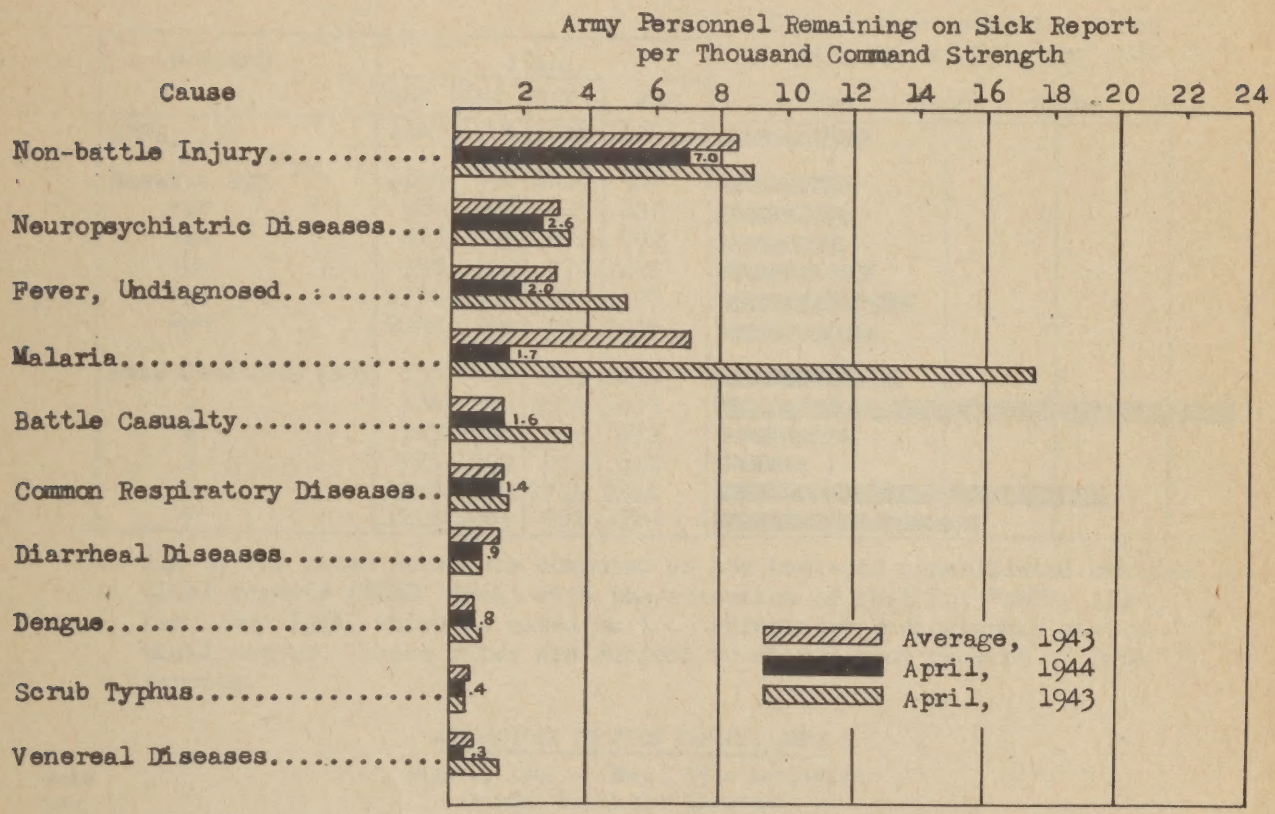
The evacuation rate for the theater showed a moderate increase for the month, this being spread over numerous conditions. Chief increase was in evacuations for battle casualties and sequelae which rose from a rate of 1.39 to 2.58 and thereby forming 6.32% of the total as compared to 3.72% for the previous month. Neuropsychiatric diseases continued to be the chief cause of evacuation although the ratio of these conditions to total evacuated declined from 42 to 38%. There were no evacuations from New Guinea to Australia during the month. There were 93 evacuations by air to the United States, a significat increase over the preceding month.

5. NON-BATTLE INJURIES

The analysis of non-battle injuries on Page 11 is a preliminary study which will be used as a guide for future investigations of the causes of these types of hospital admissions.

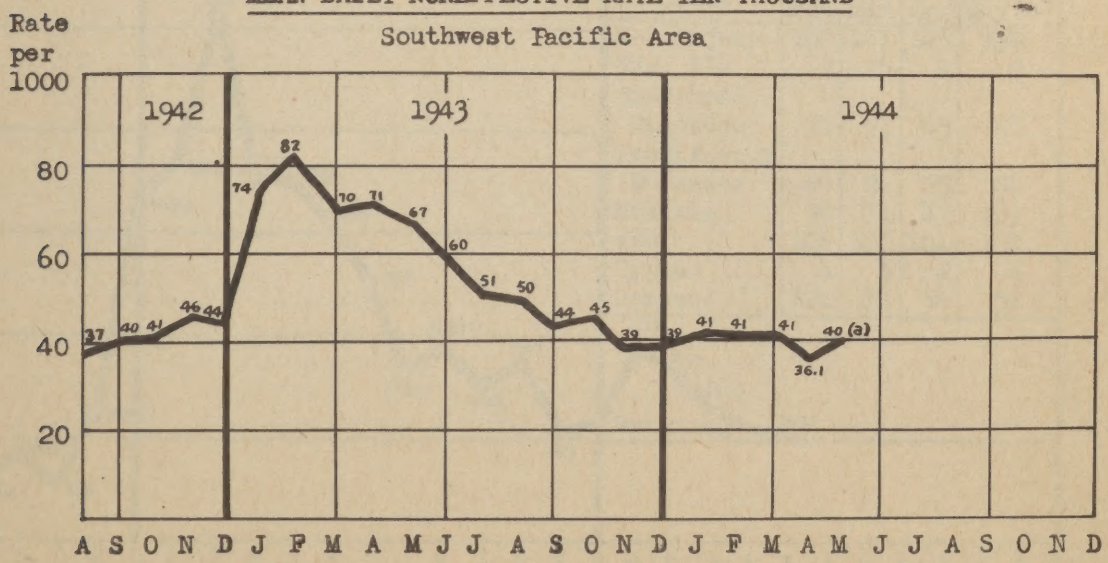
LEADING CAUSES OF NONEFFECTIVENESS - APRIL, 1944

(Based on Reported Conditions)



MEAN DAILY NONEFFECTIVE RATE PER THOUSAND

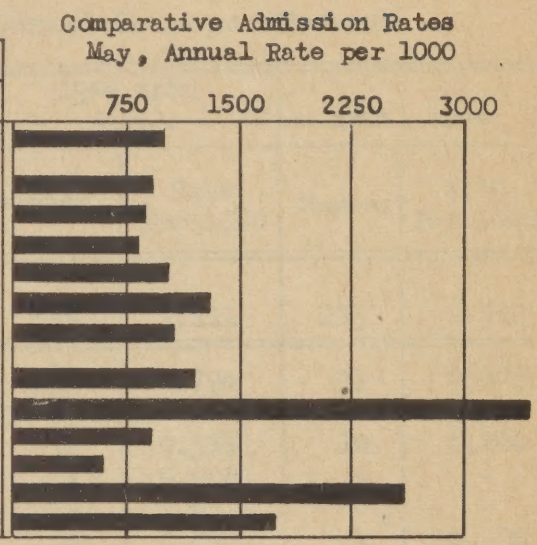
Southwest Pacific Area



(a) Estimated, in that this rate is based on Abbreviated (Radiagraphic) Weekly Statistical Reports.

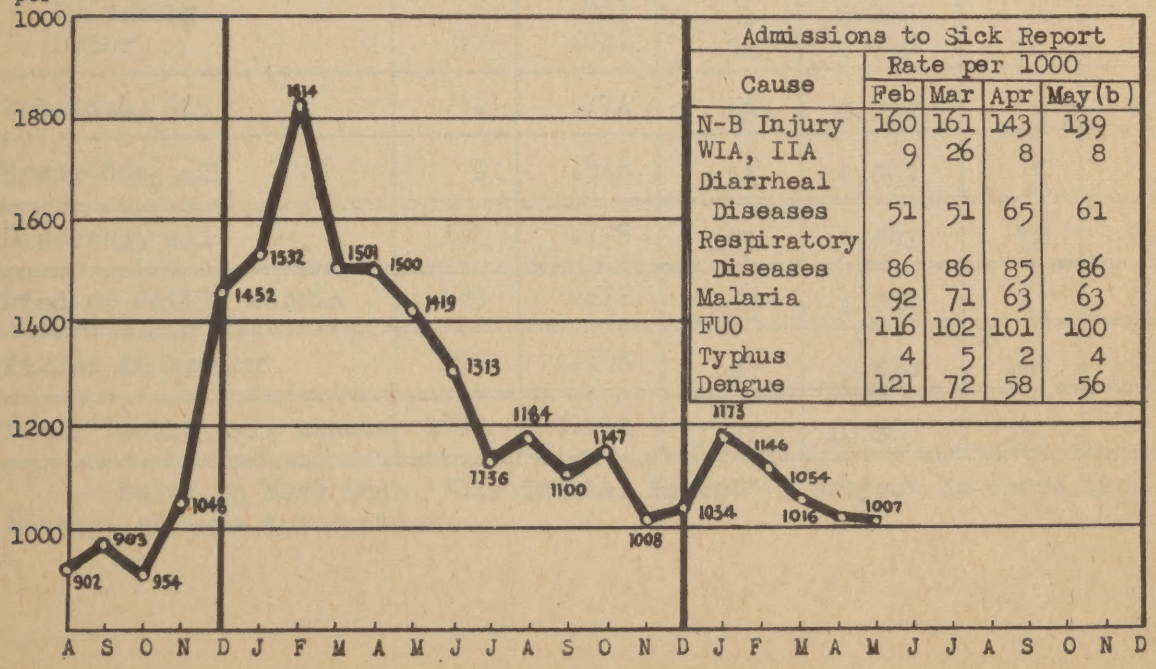
ADMISSIONS TO SICK REPORT
Disease and Non-Battle Injuries
Rates per Thousand per Annum

Command	1944			
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
SWPA, All	1146	1054	1016	1007(a)
Bases:- SOS	1198	998	1016	964
"A"	886	706	915	812
"B"	855	899	870	772
"D"	790	600	779	1028
"E"	1776	1903	1835	1327
"F"	2182	1230	952	1046
Base Sections:-SOS	855	824	935	1130
1	374	555	2559	3433
2	785	906	840	872
3	723	709	653	640
4	1862	1362	1718	2614
7	1218	1063	882	1729



(a) All of the rates above are computed on the basis of consolidated statistical reports (WDMD 86ab) with the exception of that for "SWPA, All" for May 1944, which is based on the abbreviated radiographic statistical report. Above rates are subject to change upon receipt of late reports.

ADMISSIONS TO SICK REPORT, SWPA
August, 1942 - May, 1944 inclusive
Annual Rates per Thousand



Admissions to Sick Report				
Cause	Rate per 1000			
	Feb	Mar	Apr	May(b)
N-B Injury	160	161	143	139
WIA, IIA	9	26	8	8
Diarrheal Diseases	51	51	65	61
Respiratory Diseases	86	86	85	86
Malaria	92	71	63	63
FUO	116	102	101	100
Typhus	4	5	2	4
Dengue	121	72	58	56

(b) Based on abbreviated radiographic statistical report.

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DEATHS BY CAUSES, SWPA

Total, 1943; 1944 thru April; and April, 1944

Absolute Numbers and Crude Annual Rates per Thousand

Cause	1943		1944 thru April		April 1944	
	Number	Rate per 1000	Number	Rate Per 1000	Number	Rate Per 1000
Non-battle injury, all	574	2.943	364	3.111	105	2.942
Accidents, all	531	2.722	327	2.794	93	2.605
Automobiles	60	.308	37	0.316	10	0.280
Street cars	1	.005	1	0.008	-	-
Motorcycles	4	.021	-	-	-	-
Railroad	12	.062	2	0.017	1	0.028
Air Transportation	289	1.489	112	0.957	22	0.616
Water Transportation	4	.021	2	0.017	-	-
Drowning	46	.236	67	0.573	28	0.784
Burns	14	.072	18	0.154	2	0.056
Falls	15	.077	3	0.026	1	0.028
Firearms	57	.292	28	0.239	18	0.504
Electrocution	4	.021	5	0.043	1	0.028
Animals	2	.010	-	-	-	-
Poisoning	6	.031	1	0.008	-	-
Other	17	.087	51	0.436	10	0.280
Suicides, all	34	.174	26	0.222	9	0.252
Homicides, all	9	.046	11	0.094	3	0.084
Diseases, all	152	.779	105	0.897	30	0.840
Died of Battle Wounds	83	.426	119	1.017	27	0.756
Killed in Action	895	4.598	683	5.838	169	4.735
Total Deaths, all causes	1704	8.736	1271	10.863	331	9.273

Based on WDMD 86ab, "Statistical Report"; subject to correction on receipt of late information.

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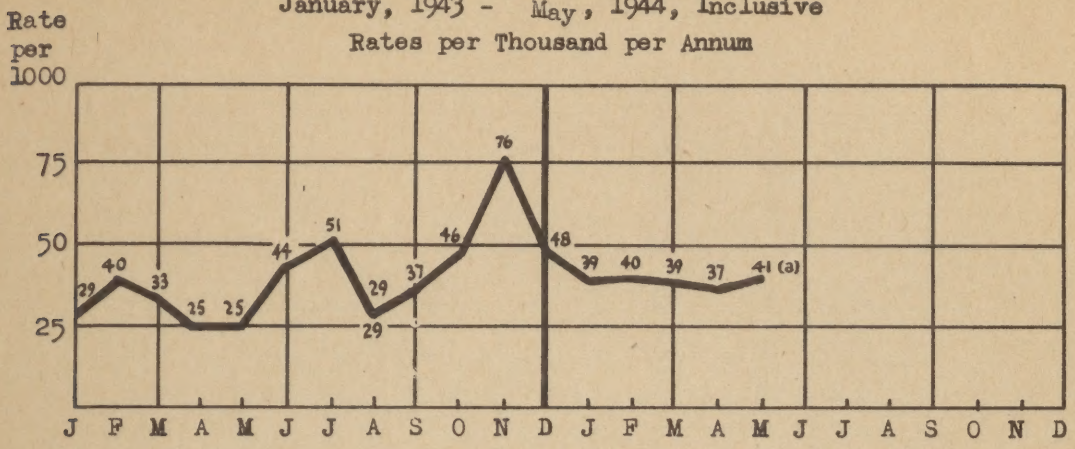
As of: 25 June '44

MEDICAL EVACUATIONS, SWPA TO UNITED STATES

January, 1943 - May, 1944, Inclusive

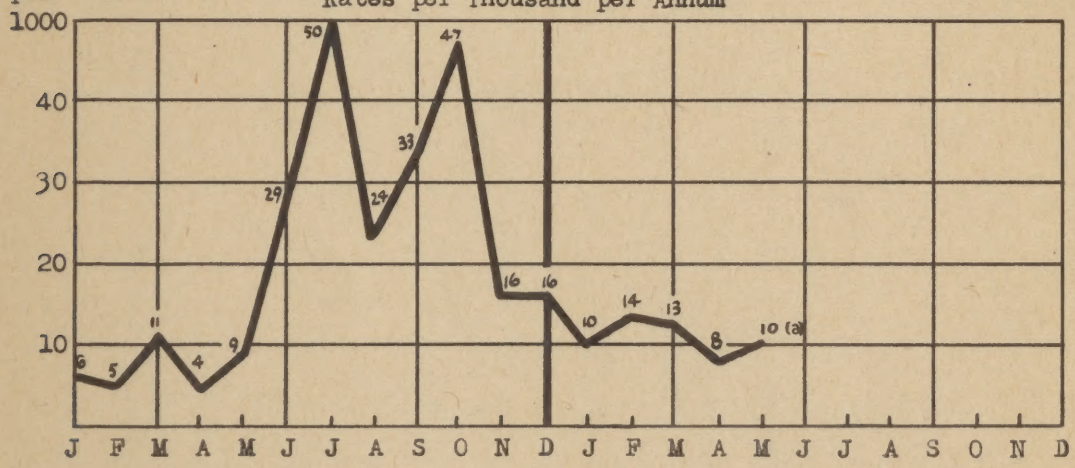
Rates per Thousand per Annum



MEDICAL EVACUATIONS, (BOARDED) AWAITING EVACUATION TO UNITED STATES

January, 1943 - May, 1944, Inclusive

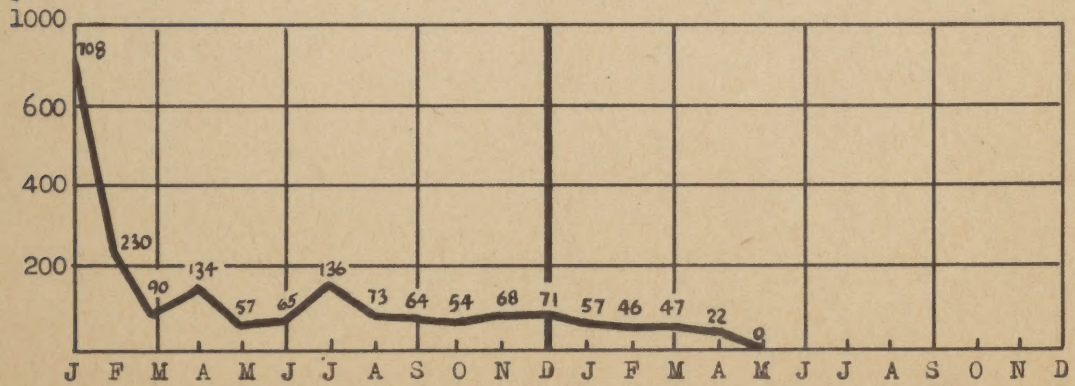
Rates per Thousand per Annum



MEDICAL EVACUATIONS, NEW GUINEA TO AUSTRALIA

January, 1943 - May, 1944, Inclusive

Rates per Thousand per Annum[a]



(a) Based on Station-List Strengths

MEDICAL EVACUATIONS BY CAUSE - SWPA TO UNITED STATES

Total 1943 - and by Months 1944

Absolute Numbers and Rates per Thousand per Annum

MEAN STRENGTH	191366			311068			317547			369179			406223			464717		
CAUSE OF EVACUATION	Year 1943			January			February			March			April			May		
	Cases	Rate	%	Cases	Rate	%	Cases	Rate	%	Cases	Rate	%	Cases	Rate	%	Cases	Rate	%
ARTHRITIS	493	2.58	5.94	72	2.78	7.09	49	1.85	4.59	45	1.46	3.73	50	1.48	3.96	91	2.35	5.75
ASTHMA	480	2.51	5.79	59	2.28	5.81	58	2.19	5.43	68	2.21	5.64	52	1.54	4.11	80	2.07	5.06
NEOPLASM	31	.16	.37	6	.23	.59	-	-	-	10	.33	.83	12	.35	.95	13	0.34	0.82
CARDIO-VASCULAR OTHER	215	1.12	2.59	13	.50	1.28	23	.87	2.15	38	1.23	3.15	37	1.09	2.93	30	0.77	1.90
HYPERTENSION	59	.31	.71	6	.23	.59	1	.04	.09	7	.23	.58	6	.18	.47	6	0.15	0.38
DEFECT OR DEFORMITY (NON-MENTAL)	401	2.10	4.83	92	3.55	9.06	40	1.51	3.75	48	1.56	3.98	65	1.92	5.14	130	3.36	8.22
DERMATITIS	236	1.23	2.85	35	1.35	3.44	41	1.55	3.84	92	2.99	7.63	113	3.34	8.94	168	4.34	10.62
DIABETES	38	.20	.46	1	.04	.10	1	.04	.09	5	.16	.41	3	.09	.24	3	0.08	0.19
PEPTIC ULCER	286	1.49	3.45	12	.46	1.18	16	.60	1.50	26	.85	2.16	23	.68	1.82	30	0.77	1.90
FILARIASIS	38	.20	.46	10	.39	.98	9	.34	.84	7	.23	.58	4	.12	.32	1	0.03	0.06
MALARIA AND SEQUELAE	108	.56	1.30	3	.12	.30	9	.34	.84	1	.03	.08	-	-	-	0	-	-
TYPHUS AND SEQUELAE	17	.09	.20	6	.23	.59	3	.11	.28	1	.03	.08	3	.09	.24	6	0.15	0.38
TUBERCULOSIS	97	.51	1.17	8	.31	.79	12	.45	1.12	24	.78	1.99	24	.71	1.90	17	0.44	1.07
NEUROSYPHILIS	44	.23	.53	3	.12	.30	4	.15	.37	6	.20	.50	7	.21	.55	2	0.05	0.13
OTHER VENERAL	9	.05	.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.03	.08	-	-	-	1	0.03	0.06
BATTLE CASUALTY AND SEQUELAE	551	2.88	6.64	29	1.12	2.85	46	1.74	4.31	49	1.59	4.06	47	1.39	3.72	100	2.58	6.32
NON-BATTLE INJURY AND SEQUELAE	751	3.92	9.05	104	4.01	10.24	159	6.01	14.89	128	4.16	10.61	86	2.54	6.80	122	3.15	7.71
PSYCHOSES, ALL	862	4.50	10.39	135	5.21	13.29	167	6.31	15.64	311	10.11	25.79	315	9.31	24.92	309	7.98	19.53
CONSTITUTIONAL PSYCHOPATHIC STATES	70	.37	.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.03	.08	1	0.03	0.06
MENTAL DEFICIENCY	48	.25	.58	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	.03	.08	-	-	-
PSYCHO-NEUROSES, ALL	2303	12.03	27.77	283	10.92	27.85	251	9.49	23.50	197	6.40	16.33	224	6.62	17.72	264	6.82	16.69
EPILEPSY	101	.53	1.22	8	.31	.79	6	.23	.56	16	.52	1.33	25	.74	1.98	27	0.70	1.71
ORGANIC NEUROLOGICAL	122	.64	1.47	12	.46	1.18	24	.91	2.25	21	.68	1.74	9	.27	.71	40	1.03	2.53
OTHER CONDITIONS ALL	934	4.88	11.26	119	4.59	11.71	149	5.63	13.95	105	3.41	8.71	157	4.64	12.42	141	3.64	8.91
TOTAL	8294	43.34	100.00	1016	39.19	100.00	1068	40.36	100.00	1206	39.20	100.00	1264	37.34	100.00	1582	40.85	100.00

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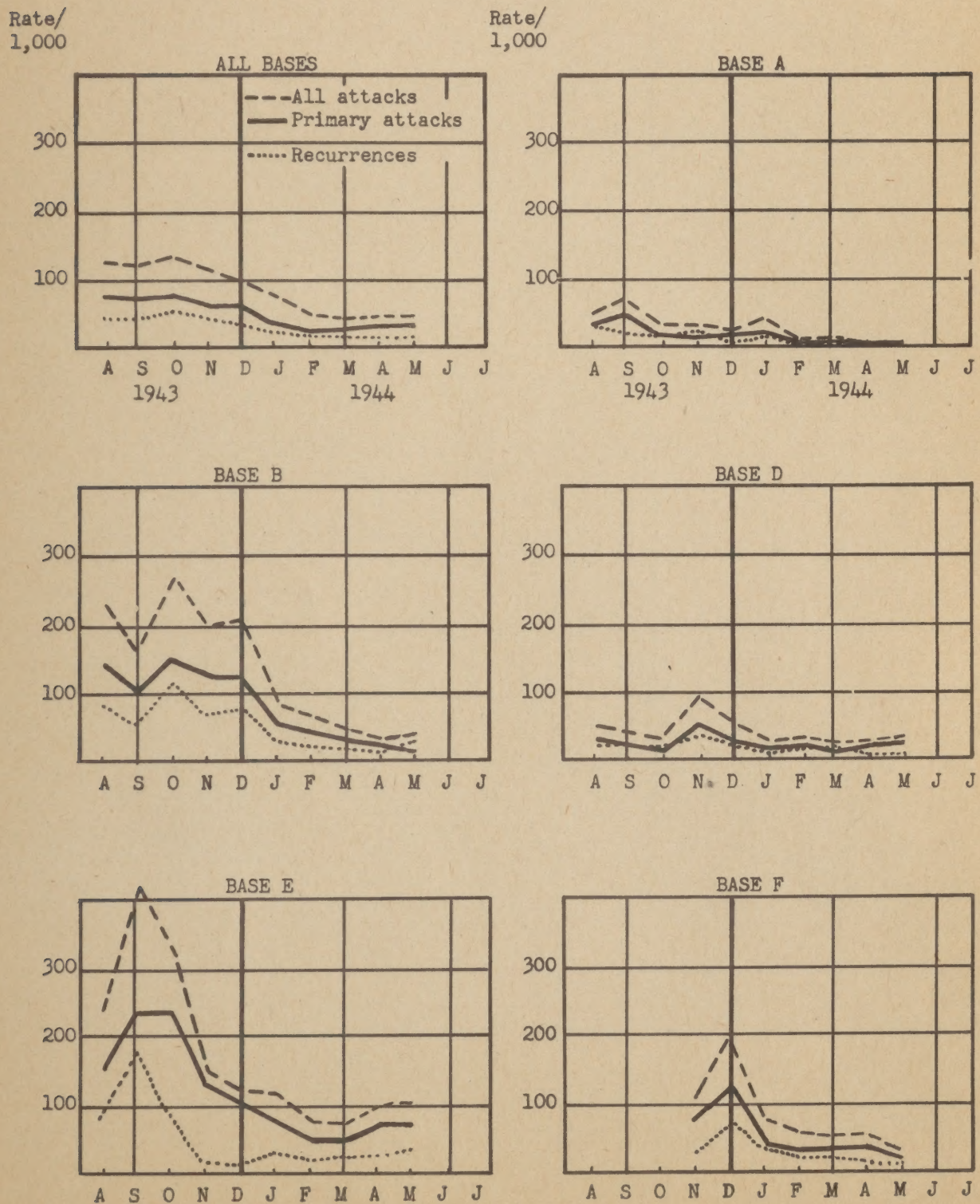
MALARIA IN SELECTED BASES

August, 1943 - May, 1944

Rates per Thousand per Annum
(Based on Malaria Case Report Cards and Station-List Strengths)



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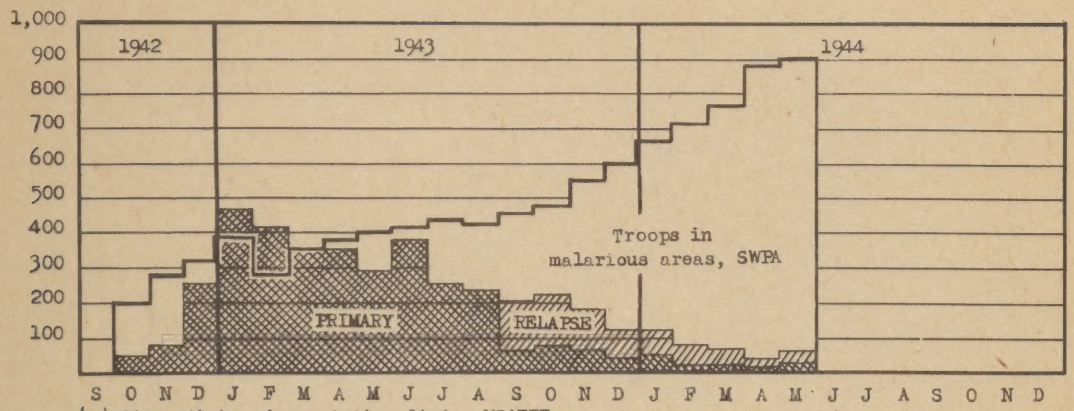
As of: 25 June '44

RATE PER 1000

S.W.P.A. MALARIA ATTACK RATES

Per 1,000 Per Annum



(a) Strength based on station lists, USAFFE.
(b) Rates computed from WDMD 86ab.
(c) Relapse rates prior to Sept. '43 not available.

NEW GUINEA MALARIA ATTACK RATES BY AREAS AND COMMAND, MAY, 1944

Cases Per 1,000 Per Annum *

	6th ARMY	USASOS	FAR EAST AIR FORCE			14th AAC COMMAND	USAFFE	GHQ	BASE TOTAL
			5th AF	13th AF	Total AF				
Base A	2.8	4.70	--	--	--	10.05	18.88	--	5.57
Base B	25.8	68.50	72.66	--	72.66	54.27	--	--	42.84
Base C	21.6	57.2	--	--	--	--	5.9	--	21.42
Base D	11.99	42.27	44.20	--	44.20	--	--	48.19	35.5
Base E	--	97.97	104.98	--	104.98	102.05	--	--	103.06
Base F	23.65	36.79	32.93	--	32.93	18.63	--	--	30.45
Base G	72.68	75.43	85.71	--	85.71	46.81	--	--	72.37
New Britain	50.8	21.1	15.89	--	15.89	88.75	--	--	47.31
Admiralty Is.	45.8	50.72	28.16	24.68	25.07	14.34	--	--	40.26
Trobriands	--	45.98	11.76	--	11.76	18.87	--	--	24.21
N.G. TOTAL	44.33	40.27	76.07	24.68	73.82	40.46	10.9	48.19	47.51

*Statistics Based on Malaria Case Report Cards.

PERCENTAGE OF DISEASE HOSPITAL BEDS OCCUPIED BY MALARIA CASES IN S.W.P.A.

DENTAL SERVICE SWPA

THE RELATIVE PERCENTAGE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE FOUR DENTAL CLASSIFICATION GROUPS AS COMPILED FROM MONTHLY REPORT OF DENTAL SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AR 40-510

CLASS	I		II		III		IV	
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944
Jan	6.4	2.3	28.9	19.3	3.5	2.1	61.2	76.3
Feb	4.5	1.8	30.9	17.4	2.9	2.2	61.7	78.6
Mar	3.6	1.6	31.1	19.9	2.9	2.1	62.4	76.4
Apr	3.4	1.3	26.8	15.5	3.4	2.5	66.4	80.7

The above chart indicates a significant change in the percentage found to be in Classes I, II, III and IV in the 1944 period, as compared with this same period in 1943.

There is a progressive reduction in the percentage reported as being in Class I and II, which are the groups in need of immediate or early treatment, including those requiring full dentures. The percentage in Class III shows only a slight change. However, it is believed to be reasonably low for this group, which consists principally of those who are in need of partial dentures. The increase in the percentage reported in Class IV, which is the group not in need of dental treatment, indicates that there is a progressive improvement in the dental health of our troops.

S.W.P.A. NON-BATTLE INJURIES - APRIL 1944 By Type and Arm or Branch of Service (Taken from 2676 completed cases)

	Number	Lacerations	Abrasions & Contusions	Other Wounds	Strains & Sprains	Fractures	Burns: Gasoline	Burns: Chemical	Burns: Others	Old Injuries	Dislocations	Eye Injuries	Other, All	Total	Percent	Lacerations	Abrasions & Contusions	Other Wounds	Strains & Sprains	Fractures	Burns: Gasoline	Burns: Chemical	Burns: Others	Old Injuries	Dislocations	Eye Injuries	Other, All	Total
ENGINEERS	O	-	3	1	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	10														
	EM	81	70	24	105	77	23	1	15	15	3	4	14	432														
	ALL	81	73	25	108	79	23	1	16	15	3	4	14	442	ALL	3.03	2.73	.93	4.04	2.95	.86	.04	.60	.56	.11	.15	.52	16.52
AIR CORPS	O	12	4	2	12	6	2	-	3	3	1	1	-	46														
	EM	46	47	24	130	54	30	1	17	10	1	8	9	377														
	ALL	58	51	26	142	60	32	1	20	13	2	9	9	423	ALL	2.17	1.91	.97	5.31	2.24	1.20	.04	.75	.49	.07	.34	.34	15.81
INFANTRY	O	-	1	-	2	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	6														
	EM	55	47	9	108	52	20	-	8	16	3	1	10	329														
	ALL	55	48	9	110	53	20	1	8	17	3	1	10	335	ALL	2.06	1.79	.34	4.11	1.98	.75	.04	.30	.64	.11	.04	.37	12.52
QUARTERMASTER	O	1	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5														
	EM	44	39	4	82	37	15	-	10	6	4	-	7	248														
	ALL	45	40	4	84	38	15	-	10	6	4	-	7	253	ALL	1.68	1.49	.15	3.14	1.42	.56	-	.37	.22	.15	-	.26	9.45
MEDICAL	O	-	2	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	8														
	EM	31	25	5	44	29	11	2	8	6	1	2	7	171														
	ALL	31	27	5	48	30	11	2	8	6	2	2	7	179	ALL	1.16	1.01	.19	1.79	1.12	.41	.07	.30	.22	.07	.07	.26	6.69
ORDNANCE	O	3	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5														
	EM	26	25	9	42	19	18	1	10	4	-	4	5	163														
	ALL	29	25	9	43	20	18	1	10	4	-	4	5	168	ALL	1.08	.93	.34	1.61	.75	.67	.04	.37	.15	-	.15	.19	6.28
FIELD ARTILLERY	O	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3														
	EM	24	13	7	30	18	5	5	4	5	1	2	2	116														
	ALL	24	14	8	31	18	5	5	4	5	1	2	2	119	ALL	.90	.52	.30	1.16	.67	.19	.19	.15	.19	.04	.07	.07	4.45
COAST ARTILLERY	O	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1														
	EM	18	7	9	28	23	10	-	5	2	5	1	6	114														
	ALL	18	7	9	28	23	10	-	5	2	6	1	6	115	ALL	.67	.26	.34	1.05	.86	.37	-	.19	.07	.19	.04	.22	4.30
SIGNAL	O	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2														-
	EM	16	7	3	30	18	13	1	8	6	1	2	5	110														
	ALL	17	7	3	30	19	13	1	8	6	1	2	5	112	ALL	.64	.26	.11	1.12	.71	.49	.04	.30	.22	.04	.07	.19	4.19
CAVALRY	O	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-														
	EM	18	5	6	19	7	10	-	1	1	1	1	1	70														
	ALL	18	5	6	19	7	10	-	1	1	1	1	1	70	ALL	.67	.19	.22	.71	.26	.37	-	.04	.04	.04	.04	.04	2.62
NURSES		2	4	-	5	2	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	15	NURSES	.07	.15	-	.19	.07	-	-	-	.04	.04	-	-	.56
OTHER	O	3	4	-	4	3	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	17														
	EM	60	80	25	125	69	19	7	11	12	8	3	9	428														
	ALL	63	84	25	129	72	19	7	12	13	9	3	9	445	ALL	2.35	3.14	.93	4.82	2.69	.71	.26	.45	.49	.34	.11	.34	16.63
S.W.P.A.	O	22	20	4	34	18	2	1	5	6	5	1	-															
	EM	419	365	125	743	403	174	18	97	83	28	28	75															
	ALL	441	385	129	777	421	176	19	102	89	33	29	75	2676	ALL	16.48	14.39	4.82	29.04	15.73	6.58	.71	3.81	3.33	1.23	1.08	2.80	100

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